

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed September 30, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 3 – 5, 7 – 12, 14, 16 – 18, 20 – 29, 31 – 40, 42 – 52, 54 – 64, and 66 – 91 are pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3 – 5, 7 – 11, 14, 16 – 18, 20 – 24, 26, 31, 36, 42, 48, 54, 59, 60, and 66, has added new claims 83 – 91, and has cancelled claims 2, 6, 13, 15, 19, 30, 41, 53, and 65 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 47, 59, and 78 – 81 are allowed. Only minor amendments addressing an informality were made in independent claim 59. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 47, 59, and 78 – 81 remain allowed. Furthermore, Applicant submits that dependent claims 83 – 86 and 88 – 91 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claims 47 and 59, respectively.

Further, Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 6, 19, 30 – 31, 41 – 42, 53 – 54, and 65 – 66 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their corresponding base claim and any intervening claims.

As to allowable claim 6, the limitations of dependent claim 6 and dependent claim 2 (an intervening claim) have been incorporated into their base claim 1. Accordingly,

Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, dependent claims 3 – 5, 7 – 12, and 71 – 72 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claim 1.

As to allowable claim 19, the limitations of dependent claim 19 and dependent claim 15 (an intervening claim) have been incorporated into their base claim 14. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 14 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, dependent claims 16 – 18, 20 – 25, and 73 – 74 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claim 14.

As to allowable claim 30, the limitations of dependent claim 30 have been incorporated into its base claim 26. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 26 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, dependent claims 27 – 29, 31 – 35, and 75 – 76 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claim 26.

As to allowable claim 41, the limitations of dependent claim 41 have been incorporated into its base claim 36. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 36 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, dependent claims 37 – 40, 42 – 46, and 77 – 78 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claim 36.

As to allowable claim 53, the limitations of dependent claim 53 have been incorporated into its base claim 48. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 48 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, dependent claims 49 – 52, 54 – 58, and 87 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claim 48.

As to allowable claim 65, the limitations of dependent claim 65 have been incorporated into its base claim 60. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 60 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, dependent claims 61 – 64, 66 – 70, and 82 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claim 60.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that each of pending claims 1, 3 – 5, 7 – 12, 14, 16 – 18, 20 – 29, 31 – 40, 42 – 52, 54 – 64, and 66 – 91 are allowable for at least the reason that they include subject matter indicated as allowable in the present Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejections to claims 1, 3 – 5, 7 – 12, 14, 16 – 18, 20 – 29, 31 – 40, 42 – 52, 54 – 64, and 66 – 82 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

II. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification as allegedly not providing the proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the subject matter of claim 13 is not disclosed in the specification. In that claim 13 has been cancelled, Applicant submits that the objection to the specification is moot and the objection should be withdrawn.

III. Claims 1, 7 – 9, 11 – 12, 14, 20 – 22, 24 – 26, 32 – 33, 35 – 36, 40, 43, 48, 52, 55, 60, 64, 67, 71 – 77 and 82 are Patentable Over *Lin*

The Office Action rejects claims 1 – 2, 7 – 9, 11 – 12, 14 – 15, 20 – 22, 24 – 26, 32 – 33, 35 – 36, 40, 43, 48, 52, 55, 60, 64, 67, 71 – 77 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,553,063 to Lin (“*Lin*”).

In that claims 2 and 15 have been cancelled, the rejection as to claims 2 and 15 is believed to be moot. Further, without acquiescing to this argument, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 14, 26, 36, 48 and 60 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Additionally, Applicant submits that dependent claims 7 – 9, 11 – 12, 20 – 22, 24 – 25, 32 – 33, 35, 40, 43, 52, 55, 64, 67, 71 – 77 and 82 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from their respective base claim, each of which are believed to be allowable as set forth above.

IV. Claims 3 – 4, 16 – 17, 27 – 28, 37 – 38, 44 – 45, 49 – 50, 56 – 57, 61 – 62, and 68 – 69 are Patentable Over *Lin* in view of *Williams*

The Office Action also rejects claims 3 – 4, 16 – 17, 27 – 28, 37 – 38, 44 – 45, 49 – 50, 56 – 57, 61 – 62, and 68 – 69 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over *Lin* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,548 to Williams (“*Williams*”).

Without acquiescing to this argument, Applicant submits that dependent claims 3 – 4, 16 – 17, 27 – 28, 37 – 38, 44 – 45, 49 – 50, 56 – 57, 61 – 62 and 68 – 69 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from their respective base claim, each of which are believed to be allowable as set forth above.

V. Claims 5, 18, 29, 39, 46, 51, 58, 63 and 70 are Patentable Over *Lin* in view of *Brownlie*

The Office Action also rejects claims 5, 18, 29, 39, 46, 51, 58, 63 and 70 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over *Lin* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,493,586 to Brownlie (“*Brownlie*”).

Without acquiescing to this argument, Applicant submits that dependent claims 5, 18, 29, 39, 46, 51, 58, 63 and 70 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from their respective base claim, each of which are believed to be allowable as set forth above.

VI. Claims 10, 23, 26 and 34 are Patentable Over *Lin* in view of *Eyuboglu*

The Office Action also rejects claims 10, 23, 26 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over *Lin* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,214,672 to Eyuboglu ("*Eyuboglu*").

Without acquiescing to this argument, Applicant submits that independent claim 26 is allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Additionally, Applicant submits that dependent claims 10, 23, and 34 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from their respective base claim, each of which are believed to be allowable as set forth above.

VII. Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner pass this case to issuance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. If, however, any fee is deemed to be payable, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott A. Horstemeyer', written over a horizontal line.

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